

Hafa Adai!

Vandalism prompts implementation of security enhancement measures. **PAGE 2**
'Thank you for serving our families and children.' **PAGE 3**

\$1

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Parole chief acquitted of all charges



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Parole chief Nick Reyes and his defense team leave Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho's courtroom following his bench trial yesterday.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The bench trial for chief parole officer Nick Masga Reyes concluded yesterday with Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho acquitting him of all the charges filed against him.

See **PAROLE** on Page 4

'Unite with all those facing challenges of cancer today'



CNMI GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios recently proclaimed the week of April 29- May 5, 2024 as Marianas March Against Cancer Week in the Commonwealth. MMAC aims to raise money for the Commonwealth Cancer Association's mission of advocating for a cancer-free CNMI through early detection, public education, and awareness on cancer prevention and screening, and providing hope and support for cancer patients, survivors, and their families through community partnerships and programs. Community members who are interested in helping to celebrate survivorship and the cancer association can email the MMAC Steering Committee at recruitment.mmacc@gmail.com.

As part of the continuing efforts to promote cancer awareness and increase support for cancer survivors and their caretakers in the CNMI,

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios proclaimed the week of April 29-May 5, 2024 as Marianas March Against Cancer Week
See **UNITE** on Page 4

CCC defers gaming license revocation deliberation



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Rep. Marissa Renee Flores (Ind-Saipan) reiterates to Commonwealth Casino Commission board members that revocation of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's exclusive gaming license is appropriate and necessary during the CCC board's meeting yesterday.

» IPI bankruptcy case lawyer says IPI has negotiated \$7M loan

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission board members unanimously voted yesterday to postpone until further notice

whether to revoke or not Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's exclusive gaming license.

CCC vice chair Rafael S. Demapan said they agreed to
See **CCC** on Page 4

Hamas official says group would lay down its weapons if two-state solution is implemented

ISTANBUL (AP)—A top Hamas political official told The Associated Press the Is-

lamic militant group is willing to agree to a truce of five years or more with Israel and that it

would lay down its weapons and convert into a political party if an independent Palestinian

state is established along pre-1967 borders.

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INSIDE



LOCAL

U.S. Coast Guard members from U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/ Sector Guam participated in a comprehensive subject matter expert exchange with multiple agencies on Saipan from April 8-12, 2024.

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BUSINESS

Gene's Barber & Beauty Shop has opened a second location in Dandan to serve its loyal customers in the southern and eastern end of Saipan.

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BUSINESS

A total of 27 students from Saipan Southern High School embarked on an enriching journey into the world of hospitality with a visit to Hyatt Regency Saipan last Tuesday.

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Local

Vandalism prompts implementation of security enhancement measures

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Vandalism in the office of Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) on Capital Hill in July 2023 prompted the Legislature to implement a security enhancement plan, according to Legislative Bureau director Perry John P. Tenorio last Wednesday.

In response to *Saipan Tribune's* inquiry, Tenorio said the vandalism made it clear that urgent enhancements to their security measures were necessary.

"This included installing security cameras around and within the building," he said.

The director said the total cost for the surveillance

upgrade amounts to approximately \$20,000, primarily sourced from the fiscal year 2023 general funds.

A rock was reportedly thrown at Babauta's office window where the security camera was installed. The camera was reportedly stolen. No one was arrested or charged regarding the incident.

Perry informed the Senate and House of Representatives last week that the Legislature is currently in the final stages of implementing the last phase of their security enhancement plan.

He said the last phase includes the installation of strategically positioned security cameras within the building.

Weatherization Assistance Program outreach set on Tinian tomorrow

The CNMI Department of Public Works, Division of Energy Office, is pleased to announce that the Weatherization Assistance Program team will be present on Tinian tomorrow, April 27, from 9am to 3pm at the Tinian Youth Center. Dedicated staff members will be available on-site to offer assistance with the application process and provide valuable information about program services tailored for qualified low-income residents.

Residents can take advantage of this opportunity to implement essential upgrades aimed at improving the efficiency of their homes. This includes the replacement of outdated lighting and appliances with ENERGY STAR® rated products, proven to reduce energy consumption and lower utility bills.

Thelma B. Inos, the Energy director, encourages all CNMI residents to participate in making their homes more energy-efficient by adopting qualified energy-efficient, ENERGY STAR® rated products.

Interested individuals can obtain an application by visiting the department's website at www.cnmienergy.gov.mp.

For additional inquiries, residents are encouraged to contact the office at (670) 664-4480/4481 or fax (670) 664-4483, Monday to Friday, excluding weekends and holidays, from 7:30am to 11:30am and from 12:30pm to 4:30pm.

This initiative is made possible through funding from the U.S. Department of Energy, as part of the Weatherization Assistance Program under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. (PR)

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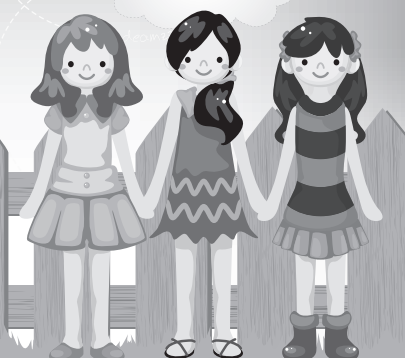
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'Thank you for serving our families and children'

For two days this week, Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho joined a team of Early Intervention Program personnel led by its director, Robin L. Palacios, for an outreach to Rota, and successfully signed up over 20 families to avail free early detection services for infants and toddlers with developmental delays at no cost.

The "Child Find and Public Awareness" activities of PSS Early Intervention Program were held on April 22 and 23 on Rota. Twenty-four families signed up, the biggest number yet for Rota in recent years.

The activities include a screening outreach for parents, infants, and toddlers at the Rota Aging Center, which was aimed at early detection of developmental disabilities. A separate team was also conducting home visitations in Sinapalo, the largest of the two residential villages on Rota.

Palacios was joined by her team of six Early Intervention special instruction teachers, a physical therapist, an advocate, and other personnel. They are Jonisa Sanchez, Peter Mendiola, Aljay Figueroa, Nace Soalabai, and Esther Tilipao.

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has sent in a three-person team to join in the outreach activities. They include Dolores Itibus, Ezeth Smith, and Bessie Hernandez.

The PSS Early Intervention Program has a working partnership agreement with CHCC, particularly in the referral program and needs for children with developmental disabilities from birth to

three years old.

Rota Health Center partnership

Camacho, Palacios, and special instruction teacher Peter Mendiola met with Rota resident director Vanessa Quitugua as part of the two-day "Child Find and Public Awareness" outreach.

Quitugua, a former educator, acknowledged the success of the EI Program in Rota. She particularly credited the partnership between CHCC/Rota Health Center and PSS Early Intervention Program that led to encouraging more parents and family to sign up for the free programs and services offered by the school district.

The PSS EI Program and CHCC partnership has been in place for over two decades now.

"The change, growth, and movement, especially our families here, to avail of the Early Intervention Program services in Rota is because we see there is that need to serve our community together as partners, and, as partners, we provide whatever critical services our community needs, including for our infant and toddlers (through the Early Intervention Program)," Quitugua said.

Palacios agreed, "What we have is really working. We are to serve and will continue to serve and work with your community."

"The entire Early Intervention team has a full schedule to serve our Rota families. To further increase our service, we are going to hold outreach twice-a-year," Palacios added.

Camacho said the PSS EI

Program cannot do it alone. It needs partners to succeed. "To our medical professionals, our parents here in Rota trust you because of your expertise in your field. When they come to you (for referral of cases to us through our Early Intervention Program) it is because they see your expertise."

"Thank you for your partnership and thank you for helping us in our service to our children and students. We hope to be able to encourage more parents to sign up for the program."

Camacho also expressed his

appreciation on behalf of the EI Program, to the Rota Office on Aging, through administrative officer Valerie Apatang, for supporting the program's outreach on Rota.

Rota Mayor's Office

The PSS team of Camacho and Palacios and her team met with the Rota Mayor's Office.

"We are truly happy that you all came down to make sure our children and families are served," said acting mayor Jim Atalig, who is the chairperson of the Rota Municipal Council.

"Thank you for taking care of the children of our small community," he added.

Mayor Aubrey Hocog's chief of staff, Dean Reynold Manglona, praised the PSS leadership for ensuring that no child is left behind in Rota.

"It is really encouraging to know that the commissioner of education is leading these outreach activities for our children and students. It only goes to show someone who is passionate about public education," Manglona said.

In 1986, the Individuals with Disabilities Education act was amended to include Early Intervention Services for Infants and Toddlers with disabilities and their families, otherwise known as Part C of IDEA. Eligible infants

and toddlers include children, birth to three years old, who are born with an established condition that has a high probability of resulting in a disability or those children who have a developmental delay. Early Intervention Services are provided for the child and family at no cost and are designed to meet the child and family's unique needs. (PR)

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NMI Democrats endorse incumbents, Manny Castro for Saipan Senate

The Central Executive Committee of the Democratic Party of the NMI gathered this month to officially confirm and endorse their incumbents along with current Precinct 2 Rep. Manny Castro.

“I am confident that my experience, passion, and dedication to public service make me an ideal candidate to represent Saipan in the CNMI Senate. I am running under the CNMI Democratic Party because I believe in the values of inclusivity, opportunity, and progress that the party represents,” said Castro.

Castro submitted his letter of intent to the party, and earlier this month, during a gathering in front of family and

friends made his announcement to run for Saipan Senate. He has the support of the party along with the support of Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, House Speaker Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), and many of his colleagues in the House.

The current lineup for the Democratic banner includes:

- Rep. Diego Vincent Fajeran Camacho for Precinct 1
- Rep. Denita Kaipat Yangtmai for Precinct 3
- Rep. Vicente Castro Camacho for Precinct 3
- Rep. Manny Castro for Saipan Senate
- Rep. Edwin Propst for NMI U.S. Delegate

Also present during the Central Executive Committee meeting was Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (D-MP) who included his vote. Sablan encourages all interested individuals on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to run for office with the NMI Democrats, and vote for NMI Democrats. Delegate Sablan, who is retiring this year, has publicly endorsed Propst as his successor and has called on families, friends, and supporters to vote for Propst in this year’s mid-term elections on Nov. 5.

All interested individuals looking to run for office under the Democratic Party of the NMI can submit their letters of intent. For more information visit www.nmidems.org and stay updated via @nmidems on Facebook. (PR)

HAMAS

From page 1

The comments by Khalil al-Hayya in an interview Wednesday came amid a stalemate in months of cease-fire talks. The suggestion that Hamas would disarm appeared to be a significant concession by the militant group officially committed to Israel’s destruction.

But it’s unlikely Israel would consider such a scenario. It has vowed to crush Hamas following the deadly Oct. 7 attacks that triggered the war, and its current lead-

ership is adamantly opposed to the creation of a Palestinian state on lands Israel captured in the 1967 Mideast war.

Al-Hayya, a high-ranking Hamas official who has represented the Palestinian militants in negotiations for a cease-fire and hostage exchange, struck a sometimes defiant and other times conciliatory tone.

Speaking to the AP in Istanbul, Al-Hayya said Hamas wants to join the Palestine Liberation Organization, headed by the rival Fatah faction, to form a unified government for Gaza and the West Bank. He said Hamas would accept “a fully sovereign Pal-

estinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the return of Palestinian refugees in accordance with the international resolutions,” along Israel’s pre-1967 borders.

If that happens, he said, the group’s military wing would dissolve.

“All the experiences of people who fought against occupiers, when they became independent and obtained their rights and their state, what have these forces done? They have turned into political parties and their defending fighting forces have turned into the national army,” he said.

Over the years, Hamas has

UNITE

From page 1

in the Commonwealth.

“I truly appreciate the Commonwealth Cancer Association and the Marianas March Against Cancer committees for always working hard to put this amazing event together,” Palacios said. “Cancer has affected many people in the Marianas, including my own family.”

The Marianas March Against Cancer, which took a five-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, is set to occur on May 3, 2024 at the CPA Airport Field from 3pm to 11pm.

“I urge every member of our community to not only show solidarity but to actively engage in honoring the memory of those we have lost to cancer and to offer unwavering support to those currently battling it,” Palacios said. “Let us stand shoulder to shoulder, march forward, and unite with all those facing the challenges of cancer today.”

Jenypy Sambile, the MMAC Steering Committee chairperson, said that MMAC is more than just a march, “it’s a testament to the strength, resilience, and love that bind us together.”

“Let us remember the strength and resilience of those who have faced cancer head-on,” Sambile said. “We stand in solidarity with our cancer survivors, whose courage and determination inspire us all. Each step we take is a tribute to their unwavering spirit and their fierce battle against this relentless disease. We march not only to honor their journey but also to amplify their voices, ensuring they are heard and celebrated.”

“Let us honor their journey with compassion, respect, and unwavering support. And let us march together, hand in hand, knowing that together, we are stronger than cancer,” Sambile added.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

CCC

From page 1

defer deliberation pursuant to IPI’s filing last Friday of Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition in federal court and notice for automatic stay.

Demapan said they also needed time for some clarity on legal issues.

At yesterday’s board meeting, Chuck Choi, who is IPI’s counsel in the bankruptcy case, provided the board an update of their bankruptcy petition.

Choi, who is in Hawaii and spoke on the phone, said U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona will hold a hearing today, Friday, at 8:30am to consider certain “first day motions.”

The lawyer said typically whenever there is a Chapter 11 reorganization case filed, the debtor in possession seeks court approval to pay pre-petition wages to and in some instances borrow money as they have here in IPI’s case.

He said on the court calendar today, Friday, is the

motion to pay pre-petition wages primarily to employees who provide security at the hotel/casino.

Choi said the amount that they’re seeking to pay is not significant, but the important thing for the commission to know is that IPI has negotiated a loan from a Hong Kong resident of up to \$7 million.

He said the hearing is whether they can borrow up to \$400,000 in the short term.

Choi said they will then seek the bankruptcy court’s approval to borrow up to \$7

million so they have available funds to make payments to the CCC and or the government once a settlement is finalized.

“It is a request for permission to borrow up to \$7 million because we anticipate we hope to be able to strike a deal with the commission,” he said.

Choi said they submitted a budget to the bankruptcy court that includes potential payment to the commission.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

PAROLE

From page 1

It was an emotional day for both Reyes and his friends and family because after four days spent in court, Camacho found Reyes not guilty on all four charges of forgery and misconduct in public office.

In a surprising turn of events, Reyes’ trial—which was expected to continue today—was cut short when his defense team opted not to cross examine the two remaining witnesses called in by assistant attorney general James Kingman.

After the defense and prosecution gave their closing argument, Camacho issued his ruling finding Reyes not guilty of forgery and misconduct in public office.

In a statement from Reyes’ attorney Joaquin Torres, he said the testimonies of Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and special assistant to the administration Oscar Babauta pleaded Reyes’ case for him that he did not have to forge documents to keep his job.

“I believe that the court relied heavily on the testimonies of the governor and SAA Oscar Babauta. They testified to


wanting the [Parole Board] to be ran properly and wanting Reyes to continue doing his job. I believe the court relied on those testimonies and we didn’t really have to plead our case,” he said.

Meanwhile, *Saipan Tribune* tried to get a comment from Kingman who stated he had no comment for the press.

During the third day of Reyes’ trial, Babauta testified to personally speaking with Reyes before his contract expired back in September 2023, stating he could “man his post” and that he would essentially discuss the issues regarding his contract with the governor.

“The Board of Parole is important. I wanted to [do something] to prolong operations at that office [and that meant] allowing Reyes to continue [in his role]. Because the acting chair was reluctant to move forward with his employment (animosity was brewing) I brought it up with the governor a second time. The governor instructed me to ‘do whatever is needed to be done’ to make sure that Reyes’ employment continues,” he said.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com



CNMI SCHOLARSHIP OFFICE
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April 5, 2024

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Scholarship Board of Directors is hereby giving notice that it will hold its 3rd regular board meeting on Monday, April 29, 2024 at 11:00a.m. on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the CNMI Scholarship Office Conference Room.

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Old Business
- VII. New Business
 - a. New Gen. (NMC Scholarship Presentation)
 - b. Budget and Financial Report
 - c. Board Committee Reports
 - d. Appeals
 - e. Administrator’s Report
- VIII. Announcements & Next Meeting Date
- IX. Adjournment of Meeting

/s/ Donna M. Flores, Chairwoman



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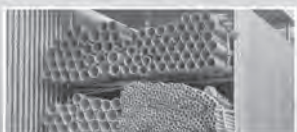


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USCG engages with CNMI, Guam agencies to enhance inter-agency cooperation

U.S. Coast Guard members from U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam participated in a comprehensive subject matter expert exchange with multiple agencies in Saipan from April 8-12, 2024, to enhance inter-agency cooperation and proficiency in maritime operations.

During this pivotal event, Chief Petty Officer Richard Hofschneider of the Forces Micronesia Ready for Operations department, Chief Petty Officer Robert Cook, Petty Officer 1st Class Juan Taijeron, and Petty Officer 2nd Class Darren Apiag, also



USCG

U.S. Coast Guard members from U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam take a moment for a photo with participants in a comprehensive subject matter expert exchange with multiple agencies in Tanapag, Saipan, CNMI, from April 12, 2024, to enhance inter-agency cooperation and proficiency in maritime operations. Local agencies included representatives from the CNMI Department of Fire and Emergency Management Services, the CNMI Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Guam Department of Agriculture.

a Coast Guard reservist from Coast Guard Station Apra Harbor in Guam, met with representatives from CNMI Department of Fire and Emergency Management Services and CNMI Department of Fish and Wildlife. This collaborative effort

also included representatives from the Guam Department of Agriculture, which contributed two officers to the exchange, highlighting the program's inclusive and comprehensive approach.

Participants engaged in a series of classroom and practical on-the-water training scenarios covering key maritime components such as administration, navigation, training programs, rescue and survival systems, and engineering. These activities are conducted at no cost to the local government and are designed to bolster each agency's capabilities while ensuring they are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to manage maritime operations and safety effectively.

Key outcomes from the exchange included requests for a future risk management workshop to help establish a comprehensive risk management program and policy, a workshop to establish certification requirements for boat operations, and further familiarization with aids to navigation and navigation rules. All agencies expressed a desire for assistance drafting new or updated standardized procedures and manuals to formalize their agency programs and improve future operations and personnel onboarding.

"The enthusiasm and commitment demonstrated by all participants, especially our colleagues from DFW, were truly commendable," said Lt. Cmdr. Christine Igisomar, the U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam maritime advisor. "It's inspiring to see such active engagement and dedication to improving our collective capabilities. This exchange strengthens our operational readiness and reinforces the bonds between our agencies."

This event builds upon the foundations laid during the cooperative search and rescue exercise conducted in September 2023. It underscores the ongoing commitment of U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam to fostering and maintaining robust partnerships with CNMI counterparts.

The U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam team focuses on maritime safety, security, and stewardship in Oceania. With a primary presence in Guam and Saipan and over 300 members across Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the team maintains a strong U.S. presence in the Micronesia sub-region and adjacent areas, closely tied to local communities. (PR)

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IN CELEBRATING EARTH DAY, NATIONAL PARK WEEK, ARBOR DAY Radewagen highlights conservation efforts

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) is celebrating Earth Day (Monday), National Park Week, and Arbor Day (Friday), along with highlighting current conservation efforts in the Natural Resources Committee.

"As an original cosponsor, I'm pleased to help co-lead bipartisan conservation legislation that would have nationwide impacts in promoting better preservation along with encouraging outdoor activities," said Radewagen. "National Park Week begins with Earth Day and closes with Arbor Day. These three events work in harmony to promote taking care of our resources, making responsible trash and recycling choices, supporting the treasures of our National Parks, and encouraging the importance worldwide of healthy trees to provide better air and wildlife habitat."

Radewagen is an original cosponsor of the America's Wildlife Habitat Conservation Act, H.R. 7408, which invests \$320 million in grant opportunities to work with state and territory wildlife action plans. She is also an original cospon-

sor of the bipartisan Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences Act (EXPLORE) Act, supporting recreational activities in a host of ways. Related efforts in the Natural Resources Committee include the bipartisan Save Our Sequoias Act, and the bipartisan Military and Veterans in Parks (MVP) Act, which includes access upgrades for Wounded Warriors, and works with nonprofits that support outdoor activities for veterans and service members.

"Thank you most of all to our local National Park employees and volunteers!" continued Radewagen. "Our National Park of American Samoa is unique among the others. All over our islands with tropical rainforest, we have abundant natural beauty that we can take pride in and leave to each new generation."

The National Park of American Samoa is the only one south of the equator, a multi-site park on several islands, home to South Pacific plants and species not found elsewhere in the U.S., and includes offshore coral reefs.

In 2020, Congress passed the comprehensive bipartisan Great American Outdoors

Act, which included increased support for National Parks and guaranteed funds in the important Land Water Con-

servation Fund (LWCF). As the most substantial conservation legislation in decades, the law was called as "a con-

servationist's dream" by the National Parks Conservation Association.

National Park Week is an initiative of the National Park Service and the National Park Foundation. The NPS is part of the Department of the Interior, under the jurisdic-

tion of the Natural Resources Committee in Congress for oversight and funding. The United States is home to 63 national parks and 424 sites in the National Park system, including monuments, memorials, battlefields, historic sites, and scenic trails. (PR)



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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

How much is tuition really? Your favorite college does not want you to know

For high school seniors from the Class of 2024 who plan to attend college in the fall, these are tense days. The traditional May 1 deadline for picking a school is fast approaching. At the same time, Uncle Sam is making the painful process of applying for financial aid extra difficult this year. Colleges and universities are up to their usual game of hiding the true amounts they intend to charge until the last possible moment. And President Joe Biden is throwing in a new wrinkle, arbitrarily forgiving the college loans of some students, but not others, a pretty naked attempt not just to put a thorn in the side of the Supreme Court but to win more votes ahead of the Nov. 5 election.

America sure makes going to school complicated. In fact, the process has become so fraught that some schools are bracing for a significant decline in enrollment this year.

The red tape and high costs have become such a burden that part of the expected student population is giving up on the whole idea—and who can blame them?

The federal government owes everyone an apology for the botched rollout of its new Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Filling out the FAFSA, as it's called, is a rite of passage for incoming students and their middle-class families, combining the tedium of tax time with the complication of an unfamiliar government bureaucracy.

Making matters worse is a federal law ironically titled The FAFSA Simplification Act, which beginning this year imposed big changes on how the government determines financial aid eligibility. The law affects Illinois and every other state that uses FAFSA data to award its grants for students, as well as every school that participates in federal student aid programs, which is most of them.

So far, the Orwellian "Simplification Act" has turned college admissions into an even more complicated mess. The U.S. Department of Education was months late in issuing the new FAFSA, then it belatedly woke up to a slew of errors that resulted in faulty determinations of how much aid a student is entitled to. It's still trying to correct inaccurate calculations that it previously transmitted to colleges.

The upshot is that financial aid award letters, which usually arrive during the same early spring period as offers of admission, were in many cases delayed this year. Instead of having weeks to consider their options, some families are still waiting for crucial information about how much the entire miserable business will ultimately cost them. While some schools have extended deadlines to help accommodate the delays, others have refused. Evidently, they expect families to give them an answer about attendance without knowing the relevant amounts in each part of a complicated financial aid puzzle that typically includes grants,

See **HOW** on Page 13

Ukraine aid shows MAGA hasn't cowed Johnson

House Speaker Mike Johnson endured a titanic struggle to get Ukraine aid through the House, one that demonstrates the benefits of cooperation and the pitfalls of extremism.

His ultimate success on Saturday, however, came at a dear price, one paid by Ukrainians in blood and in the countless lives that might have been saved had Johnson taken up the bill when it was passed by the Senate in February. His refusal to marshal the coalition of Democratic and GOP votes in support of the package faded this week in the face of expert briefings that finally convinced him of the gravity of the situation and the importance of Ukraine's fight to U.S. interests.

Instead of catering to MAGA extremists, Johnson declared himself a "Reagan Republican," rejecting the isolationism that has come to dominate the party's extremists. It was a refreshing and unexpected turn from Johnson.

"We have a very special responsibility," Johnson told reporters at an earlier news conference. "It doesn't mean we're the world's policeman. It does mean we have to stand for freedom."

Such talk is seldom heard these days from the party of Donald Trump. Even rarer is Johnson's affirmation of the value of gathered intelligence. "I really do believe the intel and the briefings that we got," Johnson said. "I think Vladimir Putin would continue to march through Europe if he were allowed. I'd rather send bullets to Ukraine than American boys," he said noting that his son will enter the U.S. Naval Academy this fall.

President Joe Biden earlier this week voiced support for Johnson's efforts to build a bipartisan coalition, pledging to "sign this into law immediately to send a message to the world: We stand with our friends, and we won't let Iran or Russia succeed."

It's too soon to know whether this latest battle will prove to be Johnson's crucible. But he is learning one lesson over and over again. His biggest victories as House speaker have come through the most conventional means: forming coalitions and building on common interests to reach a reasonable middle ground, with the occasional sweetener for recalcitrant members.

Johnson devised a complex strategy for the \$95 billion aid package that broke it into four pieces, allowing debate and amendments on each so all members could have their say. The \$60 billion in aid for Ukraine included a loan component to mollify Republicans on the fence. The \$26 billion for Israel included \$10 billion in humanitarian aid for Gaza that Democrats wanted. A third piece was \$8 billion in aid to Taiwan and other Indo-Pacific allies against the threat of Chinese aggression, while the fourth bill featured sanctions against Russia and Iran, and the potential ban or sale of TikTok. All four pieces passed

By **PATRICIA LOPEZ**
Bloomberg Opinion

Patricia Lopez is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering politics and policy. She is a former member of the editorial board at the Minneapolis Star Tribune, where she also worked as a senior political editor and reporter.



with strong bipartisan support.

He also wisely refrained from an earlier intention to bundle the deal with a modified version of the Republican border bill—a sure dealbreaker in the Senate.

These are all nuanced, important measures that helped the deal go through and perhaps signs that his leadership is maturing. Efforts like these are not a surrender, regardless of what the extremists may say. They are the only way to govern in a closely divided body.

Democrats proved critical to Johnson's efforts, even in getting the package to the floor. In a rare occurrence, Democrats broke with tradition and provided Republicans with the votes to ensure its passage out of the Rules Committee. Democrats also cast most of the votes needed to pass the Ukraine aid package, providing 219 votes to the Republicans' 101. Though a bit lopsided, that nevertheless is a strong and unassailable bipartisan effort that should be commended.

Democrats also displayed impressive discipline in refusing to address threats by Johnson's right flank to oust him as speaker. House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries commended Johnson and what he called "traditional conservatives" for passing the total aid package, but wisely refrained from making it appear as though there was a quid pro quo to rescue Johnson's speakership.

Democrats and Republicans also teamed up to deliver a satisfying comeuppance to Republican Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene. The self-styled queen of MAGA conservatives offered an amendment to zero out Ukrainian aid and was met with a resounding defeat, 349 to 71. A deflated and stone-faced Greene later told reporters that she would not move ahead on her motion to oust Johnson until the House returned from a weeklong recess.

However Johnson came to his epiphany on the need for the U.S. to stand by its allies and against the world's bullies, it reaffirmed this country's willingness to provide world leadership. It also provided a moment of unity that the House may need to draw on again as it faces down aggressors and tyrants.

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Business

Gene's Barber & Beauty Shop opens second location in Dandan

By MARK RABAGO

mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

Gene's Barber & Beauty Shop has opened a second location in Dandan to serve its loyal customers in the southern and eastern end of Saipan.

"The idea to open a second branch in Dandan is to have a personal care service that is community based. Besides that, we've had some clamor from our esteemed clients to open a new location closer to the south and east of the island," said owner Boy Ching.

Like its cornerstone location along Middle Road across the Mobil Oil gas station in Garapan, Gene's Barber & Beauty Shop in Dandan also offers haircut, shave, hair coloring, scalp treatment, and hair styling.

"There are two barbers—Johnny Labasan and Levi Amis. As of now the salon has only one all-around beautician/hairstylist, Elle Perez, and because of this salon service is by appointment only. But by next month, Elle will be stationed permanently in

Dandan, as former all-around beautician Shine Robin will be back in Garapan," he said, adding that he might add an additional all-around beautician in the future depending

on demand.

Since opening earlier this month, Gene's Barber & Beauty Shop in Dandan has been quite busy especially every Monday, Friday, Saturday,



Gene's Barber & Beauty Shop Dandan barbers Levi Amis and Johnny Labasan.



Gene's Barber & Beauty Shop Dandan is located at the Chong's International Corp. Bldg. Unit 104 along Dandan Road



Gene's Barber & Beauty Shop's Dandan is open from Monday to Sunday, 10am-6pm. For more information or to make an appointment, call (670) 235-6300.

and Sunday.

Located at the Chong's International Corp. Bldg. Unit 104 along Dandan Road, Gene's Barber & Beauty Shop in Dandan is open from Monday to Sunday, 10am-6pm. For more information or to make an appointment, call (670) 235-6300

Gene's Barber Shop is the pioneer barbershop on Saipan having been established in the 1980s. It's named after the original owner, Generoso, who passed away in the early 2010s. Ching bought the business from his widow.

Gene's Barber & Beauty Shop's original location in Garapan is located across the Mobil gas station along Middle Road in Garapan. It's open from Monday to Sunday, 8:30am-6:30pm. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (670) 233-6300.

Hyatt hosts SSHS students for Hospitality Program Tour



HYATT

Hospitality program students from Southern High School with teacher Elena Gersonde and the Hyatt Regency Saipan Leadership team headed by general manager Simon Graf.

A total of 27 students from Southern High School embarked on an enriching journey into the world of hospitality with a visit to Hyatt Regency Saipan last Tuesday.

Organized as part of their hospitality program at Northern Marianas Technical Institute and Island Training Solutions, this collaboration with Hyatt provided students with invaluable insights and practical experience crucial for their future careers in the industry.

Led by general manager Simon Graf, the team at Hyatt Regency Saipan warmly welcomed the students, offering them firsthand exposure to the operations of a leading hospitality establishment. Graf emphasized the importance of real-world experiences in preparing students for the workforce, stating, "Exposing students to real-world hospitality environments is essential in preparing them for future career opportunities."

During the visit, students

had the opportunity to know more about various hotel departments, including Engineering, Housekeeping, Human Resources, Culinary, Food & Beverage, and Front Office. Elena Gersonde, Hospitality Program teacher at SSHS, highlighted the significance of the partnership with Hyatt Regency Saipan in providing students with a comprehensive understanding of hotel operations. "Hyatt Regency Saipan is a crucial part of the hospitality course we are teaching," she said. "The goal is for students to see and understand how daily hotel operations work, from the Engineering Department to the Front Office."

The visit also included a Q&A session at Giovanni's, where students engaged with management and staff members, gaining valuable insights into their daily tasks and career journeys.

Graf expressed Hyatt Regency Saipan's commitment

to community engagement and sustainability, stating, "We are honored to be selected for this community engagement initiative and are committed to supporting the development of future hospitality professionals." As part of the visit, Hyatt Regency Saipan will contribute to the Hyatt Thrive initiative, further demonstrating its dedication to community engagement and sustainability.

For more information about Hyatt Regency Saipan and its community initiatives, contact Bea O'Malley, Marketing & Communications manager at (670) 234-1234.

Hyatt Regency Saipan, situated in the heart of the Pacific Ocean, is a premier luxury resort renowned for its unparalleled hospitality experiences and breathtaking views. With a steadfast commitment to excellence and community engagement, Hyatt Regency Saipan is dedicated to creating unforgettable moments for every guest. (PR)

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Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one IFB package set.

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This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 24, 2024** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Rodolfo Rodriguez, CUC Drinking Water & Wastewater Division Manager, via email address address-rodolfo.rodriguez@cucgov.org and Christie L. Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Senior Administrative Technician via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

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This employee is responsible for the management and supervision of engineering programs and activities at the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA). Work is technical in nature and reviewed through conferences with the Executive Director or his designee and submission of reports. Employee exercises independent judgment in solutions to situations or problems in which no precedents exist. This position is unclassified.

Minimum Qualifications

Graduation from high school (or G.E.D.) and a four (4) year degree in civil engineering from an accredited U.S. college or university with no less than five (5) years of progressively responsible experience in a professional engineering level of which three (3) years pertain to supervisory experience.

Shall have no record of felony or criminal conviction.

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport**. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, May 03, 2024**.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays and austerities, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin, Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

GRMC launches Transitional Care Clinic

Guam Regional Medical City recently launched a Transitional Care Clinic to better serve patients and improve outcomes.

The objective is to reduce hospital re-admissions and provide an additional layer of support for GRMC patients post hospitalization. The TCC will be within GRMC's Multi-specialty Clinic located on the 1st floor of the hospital and GRMC's internal medicine team will serve as the TCC providers.

There are unique challenges to ensuring a safe discharge for hospital inpatients given the island's limited resources. A TCC visit will entail the following elements:


- Evaluation of medical and/or psychosocial problems indicated as moderate or high level of medical decision making.
- Initial contact with the patient through a phone call within two business days after discharge.
- Within 7-14 days, a face-to-face visit is required with a primary care provider or one of GRMC's TCC providers.
- If the patient chooses GRMC's TCC, Transitional Care Management services

will continue for 29 days after discharge to allow the patient access to contact clinical staff or the provider by phone for any related questions.

■ The patient must consent to having a TCC visit and TCM services at GRMC.

The GRMC TCC is not intended to compete with primary care clinics, rather it is to augment and support the existing medical infrastructure and bridge a gap of service. For those patients with existing primary care providers, GRMC will not attempt to schedule a post hospitalization TCC visit unless the patient's primary care provider is unable to accommodate or schedule the appropriate follow up within the required seven- to 14-day timeframe. If a patient chooses GRMC's TCC services, they will revert to their primary care provider after the 30-day TCM period. For those patients evaluated as needing TCM services who do not have a primary care provider, GRMC will immediately offer the service.

For more information about the GRMC Transitional Care Clinic, contact Eric Plinske, chief business development officer, at eric.plinske@grmc.gu. **(PR)**



Northern Marianas College
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel.: (670) 234-5498 ext. 2300/01/02 Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: ppmo@marianas.edu

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
NMC RFP 24-001
RENTAL PROPERTY FOR THE CREES CENTER FOR AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT


The Northern Marianas College – Department of Financial Services Unit is soliciting competitive sealed bids for Proposal of a RENTAL PROPERTY FOR THE CREES CENTER FOR AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT

The bid packet may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. P, commencing Tuesday, March 26, 2024 between the hours of 9:00-11:30a.m. and 1:00-4:00p.m.** Electronic packet may be requested to **Odin C. Garces** at ppmo@marianas.edu.

Bid Submission Due Date: April 26, 2024 at 10:00 a.m., at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. P, Saipan, MP 96950.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this RFP, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the bidder to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the bidder. All submittals shall become the property of NMC and will not be returned.

/s/Odin C. Garces
NMC Procurement & Property Management Office



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Statewide Independent Living Council
“Yes I Can!”
P.O. BOX 501521, SAIPAN, MP 95950; TEL: (670) 322-6537/8 FAX: (670) 322-6536TTY: (670) 322-6449; E-MAIL: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Statewide Independent Living Council
FY 2024 Second General Membership Meeting on
Wednesday, May 01, 2024– 10:00am - 1:30pm
Venue: Aqua Resort Club – Paluma Room

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

III. Review and Adoption of May 01, 2024 Agenda

IV. Review and Adoption of SILC's FY'24 1st General Membership Meeting Minutes of March 06, 2024

V. Reports

a. SILC Chairperson

b. OVR Director

c. CLI Director

VI. Old Business

a. State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) Update

b. 2024 SILC Congress Conference update

c. Tinian membership update

d. NCIL Conference

VII. New Business

a. Election of Fiscal Officer

b. Membership (Expired/new appointments)

VIII. Announcements/Miscellaneous

IX. Adjournment

Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Human and Health Services, Assisted Community Living. Grant #2301MPILSG.

PUA program operations closed for training on Overpayment Module implementation

The CNMI Department of Labor would like to notify the public that the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program will be closed on Friday, April 26, 2024, to facilitate a comprehensive training session on the implementation of the Overpayment Module.

The Overpayment Module is a crucial component of PUA's efforts to ensure the integrity and effectiveness of unemployment assistance programs. This training session will provide PUA staff with the necessary knowledge and tools to effectively implement the module and address overpayment issues promptly and fairly.

During the closure, PUA services including adjudication, appeals, benefit payment control, and in-person assistance, will be temporarily unavailable. However, PUA remains committed to minimizing any inconvenience to its constituents and ensuring that essential services resume promptly on Monday, April 29, 2024.

PUA apologizes for any inconvenience this temporary closure may cause and appreciate the public's understanding and cooperation as we work to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of our programs.

For assistance or inquiries during the closure, individuals can email info@puamarianas.com for any inquiries. **(PR)**

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

You don't need to own an iPhone for the government lawsuit against Apple to benefit you

Last month, the Department of Justice filed its long-awaited antitrust suit against Apple, accusing the company of monopolizing the smartphone market. This makes Apple the last of the U.S.-based tech giants to face a major monopolization lawsuit from a federal agency. (Google also faces one from the Justice Department; Facebook and Amazon have been sued by the Federal Trade Commission.)

These suits make claims under Section 2 of the Sherman Act, an 1890 statute that makes it unlawful to obtain or maintain a large degree of market power through exclusionary and unfair practices. The government's thoughtfully targeted case against Apple could, in the long term, give consumers substantially more choices when it comes to digital platforms.

In its complaint, the government makes a strong argument that Apple has used its market power over the iPhone to suppress competition through a two-pronged strategy: one, limit interoperability (i.e. compatibility) between Apple and outside operating systems, such as Google's Android, and two, make non-Apple products work poorly on the iPhone. According to the Justice Department, this conduct has harmed consumers not only by degrading iPhone users' experience but also by making it hard for other smartphones to compete with Apple. Without strong competition, quality goes down, price goes up and innovation lags.

The other major tech lawsuits raise similar consumer welfare concerns. But this one uniquely takes on the market power wielded by a company as a technological ecosystem — a one-stop virtual shop where users can communicate, play, watch, listen and buy.

Consumers have a love/hate relationship with these ecosystems. We love them when they make our lives easier, which they sometimes do because we need shortcuts to navigate a virtual world rife with information overload. Apple and other companies satisfy that desire by providing an ecosystem where products can be accessed with a single password and are, theoretically, curated for quality and safety. You can iMessage an image from your Apple photo library to a friend while streaming Apple Music to your AirPods. If your friend likes the photo, you get a text alert on your Apple Watch. These transactions are protected by an up-swipe and a glance from your face.

But sometimes we hate ecosystems. They can be akin to living in a fishbowl instead of an ocean, trading in the variety of a far larger world for simplicity. The biggest obstacle to leaving the fishbowl is the cost of trying something else. If you want to stray from Apple,

you may have to learn a whole different interface, give up apps you like, reenter your data, track new passwords—and potentially spend thousands to replace your phone, watch, laptop (and so on). These switching costs give Apple market power to raise prices or degrade the quality of products without fear of consumers turning away.

In addition, the ecosystem structure creates a 360-degree view of our spending habits, likes and dislikes, and relationships. This data is extremely lucrative for companies and can seem futile for consumers to try to safeguard. When Apple changes its privacy policy with a take-it-or-leave-it update to lengthy and confusing terms of service, “leave it” doesn't feel like a real option.

For decades, the enforcement of antitrust law has been too easy on company ecosystems. It has, for example, been tolerant of “non-horizontal” mergers between companies that do not directly compete to sell a product to consumers. Regulators let Apple buy Siri, Shazam, Beats, Dark Sky (which was shuttered in favor of Apple Weather) and Texture (which became Apple News+), to name a few of Apple's more than 100 acquisitions since the iPhone's release.

The assumption was that mergers between non-horizontal firms do not reduce competitive choices for consumers, at least not in the short term. But that approach has ignored the cumulative effects. As more properties accumulated under the Apple brand, it became harder for competitors to offer a viable alternative because they would have to enter dozens of markets at once.

This problem is not new. A political cartoon from the turn of the 20th century depicted the monopoly power of Standard Oil as an octopus with tentacles in oil production, shipping and railroads. Apple may be the octopus monopolist of our time, just with 100 legs instead of eight.

In addition, Apple and other companies may have felt emboldened by court decisions from the last two decades stating that companies have only limited duties to deal with their competitors, giving tech platforms some cover to limit interoperability with outside products. But antitrust law does make refusals to interoperate illegal when they are designed to exclude competitors.

The Justice Department's suit argues that Apple has blocked “super apps” that could serve as a bridge between platforms with the intent to keep consumers locked in. It also alleges that Apple has designed the iPhone to be nearly incompatible with wearables that would compete with the Apple Watch so as to add another expensive piece of hardware you must replace to leave its world of products. And

By **REBECCA HAW ALLENSWORTH**

Los Angeles Times

Rebecca Haw Allensworth is an antitrust professor at Vanderbilt Law School.



Apple is accused of degrading competitors' products, especially messages from Android phones, to create the impression that anything not made by Apple is inferior—that the world outside the fishbowl is scary and filled with green bubble texts.

These arguments tell a very plausible story of monopolization. It suggests product design motivated more by Apple maintaining market share than by taking care of consumers and competing for their loyalty. Apple will offer a counter-story, likely consistent with previous claims that these choices increase the quality and privacy of their products. Much of the case will turn on whether the company's justifications reflect the real reasons behind its design choices.

Ultimately, the case invites the federal courts to answer a more fundamental question raised by today's economy: Should consumers have more freedom to choose their digital environments and move between fishbowls? The answer should be yes.

HOW

From page 8

scholarships, loans and subsidized jobs.

For some, this year's college experience will be like buying a car without knowing how much it costs or how it will be paid for. Car dealers, in fact, are models of transparency compared with their counterparts selling higher education.

The nonprofit Brookings Institution earlier this month unveiled a report about the shenanigans behind college pricing titled “Ignore the Sticker Price,” a reference to the fact that few students pay the actual listed price that schools say they charge.

Instead, colleges employ a slippery sliding scale that makes it all but impossible to compare the cost of one school with another until the final decision point—and even then, costs can change from year to year.

These are the same schools that in many cases had no qualms charging full price for inferior remote learning during COVID-19, and in some cases billed for activities and campus services that were shut down during the pandemic. Why would families mind paying for big gym fees and the like, even though the gym was closed and the students were working from home? They can just borrow more money, after all.

Brookings has calculated that only 26% of in-state public college students and 16% of those enrolled in more expensive private institutions paid the easily visible sticker price as of 2019-2020. That was down from roughly double those numbers paying sticker in the mid-1990s. Even many high-income families typically receive so-called merit aid or other discounts off the sticker price.

How much do people pay? Good luck figuring that out.

As the Brookings report concludes, “Our current system of setting and communicating college prices does not work. We cannot expect students to make sound decisions regarding educational investments if they do not understand how much college will actually cost them.” Wealthy parents are better positioned to weather the ambiguity, but this lack of fiscal clarity especially hurts families sending their first generation to college.

Further complicating the matter, Biden is still playing Santa Claus with taxpayer money, forgiving tens of billions in college loans on the thinnest pretexts. Those giveaways ultimately reduce the incentives for schools to economize and operate more efficiently, pushing up tuition and fees.

This multipronged pricing racket has worn out everyone's patience. America's colleges and universities, supposedly one of the nation's greatest assets, have got to start giving families straight answers.

NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

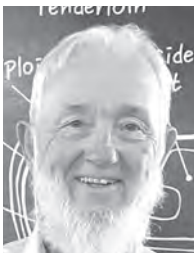
Red Caesarism: Trump trial baptism

LITERARY NOOK

By **JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka “Pepe Batbon” Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. Joey is the Poet Laureate of Tinian, celebrating 40 years in the CNMI.



The US Congress will come and pay respect
Abeance to their new King, I rightly expect.

N.B. The phrase 'droit du seigneur' in French means right of the feudal lord. Any alleged right arrogantly presumed.

MY PRESIDENTIAL LEGACY IN DISGRACE
Parody of Will Shakespeare Sonnet XXIX

*“When in disgrace with fortune and men's eyes
I all alone beweep my outcast state
And trouble deaf heaven with my bootless cries
And look upon myself, and curse my fate” -W.S.*

My presidency in disgrace in the nation's eyes
I all alone campaign in my confused state
And trouble judge and jury with my baby cries
Too bad I can't seem to ‘Make America Great...
Wish I was like Sleepy Joe from Delaware
Talk policy like him; understand what I heard
Jealous that he shows how much he can care
While in these thoughts filled with self-loathing
I think of money I owe and that I'm losing
So I sell Bibles, sneakers, hats, and clothing
Discounts on everything, you're choosing
Bling and bucks remembered on this occasion
Block thoughts of a prison cell for tax evasion.

45's *DROIT DU SEIGNEUR DAYDREAM

Inspiration from W.S. Hamlet 'To Be or Not to Be'

When to lie or not to lie? Well, it depends!
Why not take advantage of the stupidity
Of fools that follow and swallow what I say
I post my litany of lies on Truth Social
When posting those lies I lie more and more
No more will I ever seek or speak the truth
My heart and soul in prevarication lock
On falsehoods to feed my ignorant flock
Devoted I catch the foolish fish. I lie. I live.
I live to become king. That's my main thing
When I ascend the throne I will rule alone
From US Capitol II my Mar-A-Lago home

Market
your
business
cost
efficiently

INQUIRE TODAY!



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UOG students, register early for fall semester

The University of Guam is pleased to announce early registration for the fanuchānan (fall) 2024 semester is open.

Continuing and returning students including graduate students, seniors, juniors, sophomores, freshmen, regent scholars, national student exchange participants, veterans, non-degree students, and post-graduates are able to register early for classes from April 23 to May 3.

Why register early?

■ Secure preferred schedules: Early registration

affords students the opportunity to secure their desired class schedule, ensuring a fit that best accommodates their personal and academic lives, while keeping them on track for graduation.

■ Plan ahead: Registering early allows for more substantial time to consult with academic advisors, aiding students in making well-informed decisions that align with their coursework and future career aspirations.

■ Reduce stress: By registering early, students can avoid the last-minute rush, leading to a smoother and less stressful start to the semester.

■ Time to enjoy the summer: Completing registration early provides students with more free time during the summer to enjoy with



University of Guam students prep for fanuchānan (fall) 2024 registration.

friends and family.

To register for the fanuchānan (fall) 2024 semester, visit <https://registration.uog.edu>.

For more information, contact the UOG Admissions and Records office at (671) 735-2214 or via email at admitme@triton.uog.edu. (PR)

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ., F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-6537
EMAIL: mwhitepsn@yahoo.com
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS
HOUSING CORPORATION,
Plaintiff,
vs.
THE ESTATE OF CARMEN
T. ANDON and
SAMUEL M. ANDON,
Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on April 16, 2024, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property:

Legal description of the property:
Lot 011 G 308, situated in Kagman III, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 797 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat no. 011 G 06 dated December 9, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 93-4414, dated December 16, 1993, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Total area of the property:
797 square meters
Known encumbrances:
Mortgage in favor of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 04-2542, and Real Estate Deed of Trust dated October 22, 2004, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 04-2544. The net proceeds of sale will be applied towards satisfaction of the aforesaid encumbrances.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale: The sale will be held on Friday, May 24, 2024, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public. Copies of a title insurance report for the properties are available to any prospective bidder upon request.

Terms and Conditions of Sale: The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 18th day of April, 2024.

/s/
MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

JESUS BASA
PANGELINAN
Petitioner,
vs.
JULANEE PANYAYAO
PANGELINAN
Respondent,

FCD-DI CIVIL
ACTION NO.
24-0154

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file an answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. BOX 503767 SAIPAN MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgement by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 16th day of April, 2024.

/s/
Clerk of Court

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY CNMI GOVERNMENT

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 | Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the **BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA AIRPORT AIRCRAFT PARKING APRON REHABILITATION AIP NO. 3-69-0003-34/XX** OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"Benjamin Taisacan Manglona Airport Aircraft Parking Apron Rehabilitation AIP No. 3-69-0003-34/XX"** and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m. (CHST) FRIDAY, MAY 24, 2024**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal. Bids will be delivered to the Airport Conference Room immediately following the 2:00 p.m. deadline, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of, rehabilitation of the aircraft parking apron including all associated work, all in accordance with the Plans and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds by U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and CPA. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

A DVD containing the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY (\$150.00)** for each set of plans and documents in electronic form (DVD). The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order made payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority". Bidders should notify Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wpater@cnmiports.com immediately if there are issues retrieving the files on the DVD. Bidders should also verify all information using the specification table of contents and the index of drawings.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport, at **10:00 AM, FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2024**, at the Rota Airport to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference. Attendance is not mandatory. A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing, as well as wear a face mask at all times while at the airport.

Questions should be submitted in writing to the CPA Executive Director's Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wpater@cnmiports.com at least ten (10) days prior to the bid opening date; with the exception of bid submission extension requests which have no deadline. Responses to all questions and requests for information will be provided to all bidders who purchased the bid documents and attended the pre-bid conference.

Bidders shall use the bid schedule form furnished on the DVD. Each bidder should also supply all supplemental information required in the specifications.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY (450) calendar days**. Liquidated damages in the amount of **ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,000.00)** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or mis-entry of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-28 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all other Federal requirements under this procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

Date: April 19, 2024

DYS extends thanks after successful softball tourney



DYS
Cake for all the guests during Division of Youth Services' recent "Strike Out Child Abuse" Softball Tournament.

The Division of Youth Services wishes to express its profound gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of the "Strike Out Child Abuse" Softball Tournament, which took place from April 4 to 7, 2024.

This event not only aimed to raise awareness about child abuse prevention but also brought the community together in a show of unity and support for the cause.

The proclamation signing and the tournament kickoff was attended by Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang. Palacios, in his remarks, commended the Division of Youth Services and all participating teams, volunteers, and sponsors for their dedication and effort in making the tournament a success. Their participation and support underscored the critical message that every child deserves to grow up in a safe and nurturing environment.

The "Strike Out Child Abuse" Softball Tournament featured 14 total teams: Atoma, Blue Jays, Exotic-Young Gunz, Karidat, Adawayyy, Glove Affairs, ChamLau, What the Heck, Dirty Harry, Ejai, Bat and Boujee, Lucian, Elusive Kulture, and Deewhyess 4 Da Win. These teams played not just for the love of the game but for a cause that resonates deeply within our hearts—ensuring the safety and well-being of every child in the CNMI.

DYS is also thankful to the local businesses who supported this cause through their generous donations and assistance, namely *Saipan Tribune*, *Marianas Variety*, Coca-Cola Beverage Micronesia Inc, Boli R Us 2, Saipan Ice & Water

Company, MarPac, Himawari Saipan Inc, Joeten Hafa Adai, Terry's Snack Bar, Herman's Modern Bakery, Island Snow, Sweet7oh, Champs Shave Ice, EST Rental, and JG Sablan Ice & Water.

A special acknowledgment also goes to partnering agencies, including the Department of Public Safety, Public School System, DLNR Division of Parks & Recreation, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, CNMI Child Care Development Fund, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Suicide Prevention Program (988 Suicide Hotline), Northern Marianas College Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program, Karidat Social Services, Office of the Governor, and the Saipan Mayor's Office.

DYS also extends its gratitude to the members of the 23rd Commonwealth Legislature for their generous donations and continued support: House Speaker Edmund Sablan Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), Reps. Denita Kaipat Yangetmai (D-Saipan), Julie Marie Atalig Ogo (Ind-Rota), Marissa Renee Flores (Ind-Saipan), Ralph Naraja Yumul (Ind-Saipan), Roy Christopher Ada (R-Saipan), Thomas John DLC. Manglona (R-Saipan), Malcolm J. Omar (Ind-Saipan), Patrick H. San Nicolas (R-Tinian), (D-Saipan), and Manny Gregory Tenorio (Ind-Saipan), Senate President Edith DeLeon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), and Sens. Celina Babauta, Donald Manglona (Ind-Rota), and Karl Rosario King-Nabors (R-Tinian).

DYS also extends its appreciation extends to the emcee Patrick Arriola for his engag-

ing and spirited coordination of the event. Furthermore, DYS is also grateful to the proclamation readers, Celine Dela Cruz (San Vicente Elementary), Jerry Jr. Ada Deleon Guerrero (Kagman Elementary), Kayla Achime (Tanapag Middle School), and Sebastian Ray Deleon Guerrero (Tanapag Middle School) for their contribution to the ceremony's meaningful impact.

Congratulations to the winning teams: first place Team Bat & Boujee, second place Team Karidat, and



DYS
Child Protective Services workers pose with their certificate of recognition. The certificate was presented to all them who work tirelessly day and night campaigning against child abuse and neglect.

third place Team Atoma. "A heartfelt thank you to all our volunteers, fans and the community for your unwavering support. Together, we have

taken a significant step toward striking out child abuse and neglect in the CNMI. Because every child deserves to go home safe," added DYS.

For more information on how you can help strike out child abuse or to get involved in future events, contact DYS at (670) 237-1005 to 14. **(PR)**

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: DPW24-RFP No.: 42400082

SUBMISSION DATE: May 23, 2024 TIME: 10:00 A.M.
**"Provide Feasibility Study and Preliminary Design
of the Proposed Utility Pedestal at Smiling Cove
Marina, Saipan"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **April 19, 2024** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

There will be a Pre-Proposal Conference for this project on **May 07, 2024, 9:00 a.m. ChST.** at the DLNR Conference Room, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **4:30 p.m. ChST, on May 15, 2024** to Mr. Sylvan Q. Igisomar, Secretary of DLNR, Saipan. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RAY N. YUMUL
Secretary, DPW

/S/ GERALDINE T. CRUZ
Acting Director, Division of
Procurement Services

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 |
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

INVITATION FOR BID
PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-008-24

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 24, 2024: 2:00 P.M.
**"60 MONTH LEASE OF FIVE (5) ALL-IN ONE
MULTIFUNCTION PRINTER/COPIER MACHINES"**

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING APRIL 19, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF \$100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "60-MONTH LEASE OF FIVE (5) ALL-IN-ONE MULTIFUNCTION PRINTER/COPIER MACHINES (IFB-008-24)" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., MAY 24, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: _____



DYS
DYS administrator Vivian T. Sablan gives her closing remarks that recognized the true MVPs—DYS' Child Protective Services team.

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 |
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

INVITATION FOR BID
PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-009-24

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 29, 2024: 2:00 P.M.
**"REMOVAL/DISPOSAL OF EXISTING REIL LIGHTS AND
REPLACING WITH FOUR (4) BRAND NEW REIL LIGHTS"**

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING APRIL 26, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF \$100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "REMOVAL/DISPOSAL OF EXISTING REIL LIGHTS AND REPLACING WITH FOUR (4) BRAND NEW REIL LIGHTS (IFB-009-24)" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., MAY 29, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: _____

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-007-24
SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 22, 2024: 2:00 P.M.
**"AIRPORT GROUNDS MAINTENANCE
SERVICES LANDSIDE PROPERTY"**

THE PROPOSAL PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING APRIL 19, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF \$100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

PROPOSERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "AIRPORT GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICES LANDSIDE PROPERTY (RFP-007-24)" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., MAY 22, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS OR PROPOSALS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

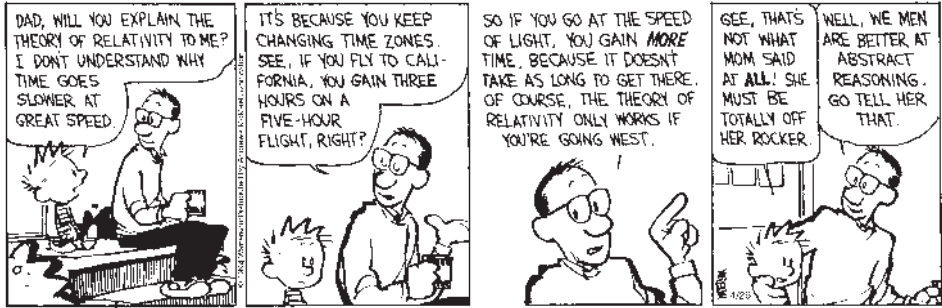
LEO B. TUDELA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: _____

Pastimes

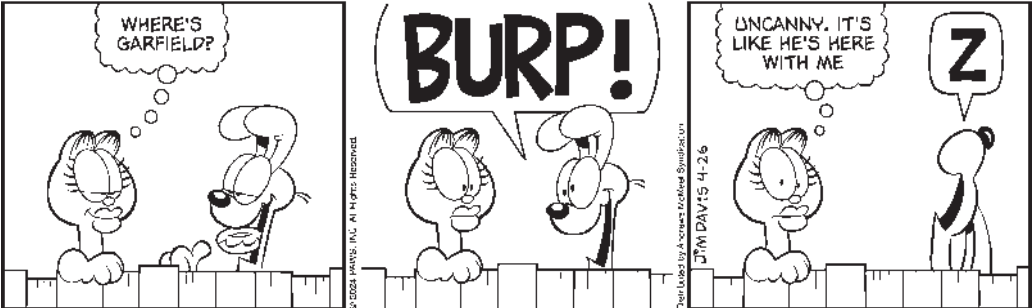
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



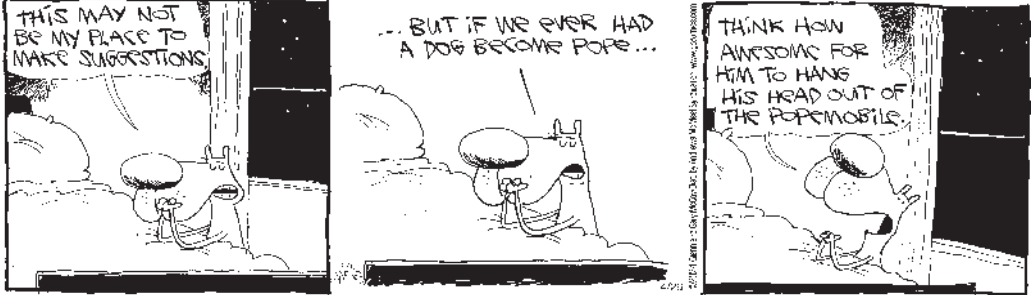
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Indent key
4 Qt. fractions
7 Group of plotters
12 Genetic letters
13 Churchill gesture
14 Martini garnish
15 MSN rival
16 Broadcast genre with "call-in" segments
18 Rx writers
19 Beer mug
20 Pants part
22 Trio after Q
23 Low voice
27 2016 Olympics city
29 Crude stone artifact
31 No-frills
34 Move laterally
35 Viral winter woe
37 Silent
38 Speeding penalty

DOWN

39 Sony rival
41 Incubator noise
45 Catcher Posada
47 Status follower
48 Hit song by Queen
52 Mentalist Geller
53 Imbibe
54 Brack-eted word
55 Charged bit
56 Backbone
57 Furtive laugh
58 Calif. clock setting
1 Battery part
3 Light-weight wood
4 USMC ranks
5 Italian play-house
6 Tennis great Monica
7 Muffin type
8 Mode lead-in
9 eBay offer
10 Bird (Pref.)
11 Zodiac feline
17 Flying toy
21 Navajo or Hopi
23 Airship
24 Help
25 Cardinal cap letters
26 "Thar — blows!"
28 Hosp. area
30 Buck-eyes' sch.
31 Favorite pal, for short
32 "Love Story" actress
33 Early riser?
36 Pirate's quaff
37 Smith of "Downton Abbey"
40 Collision
42 Furnish with gear
43 Continental cash
44 Gist
45 Gag
46 Apiece
48 Hwys.
49 Dadaist Jean
50 Cato's 502
51 Hostel

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 4-26

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jemima Kirke, 39; Channing Tatum, 44; Tom Welling, 47; Kevin James, 59.

Happy Birthday: It's up to you to change what you don't like. Set standards and be clear about what you expect of others and what you are willing to give in return. The changes you make this year will profoundly impact your life. Your power is in your ability to size up situations and follow through. Your actions will carry weight and boost your confidence. Your numbers are 6, 13, 23, 28, 31, 44, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Use your imagination, charm and connections to get ahead. High energy and an eagerness to please will gain approval, support and the opportunity to use your skills to achieve financial success. Long-term investments will offer peace of mind. Address relationships that lack equality. *****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't wait for someone to make the first move. If you don't like something, change it; if you do, speak up and applaud. A unique approach to meaningful relationships will help bring you closer together. A personal change will lead to compliments. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Follow the money. Be conscious of where every dollar goes. Joint ventures will not pan out as planned, and partnerships will require a written agreement before you move forward. Refrain from relying on secondhand information. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You'll gain recognition for your effort and input. Offer novel suggestions that impact how you fit in and progress. Don't

buy into someone else's dream when you have personal desires to fulfill. Feel free to apply friendly pressure to get what you want. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take a pass if you are not interested in an invite. Focus on what matters most and surround yourself with the people who bring out the best in you. Take heed of advice, but use it to your advantage. Update your image and goals. *****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Consider your options, hit the reset button and make a move. Let go of what's irrelevant in your life and make room for new beginnings. Learning, expanding your interests and finding your bliss will point you in the right direction. **

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Speak from the heart, and you will resolve issues that concern you. Refuse to let anyone take advantage of you, especially when your health or finances are at risk. Don't wait; be the first to enforce change. *****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Check out something or someone that interests you. Look at opportunities from every angle and pursue the path that makes the most sense. A change will give you the boost you need to lift your spirits and push you in a direction that brings you joy. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't share personal information or let anyone use emotional manipulation to exploit you. Head in a direction that allows you to use your skills and imagination to get what you want. A social or networking event will lead to an exciting connection. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take notes, elaborate and try doing something you've never done. Expand your interests, and you'll discover something that enriches your life. Don't change your goals or plans because someone pressures you to do something else. Take better care of yourself, and choose your friends wisely. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take a unique path. Don't feel pressured to follow the crowd. Venture in a direction that allows you to use your intelligence and physical attributes to get ahead. Connect with people who can offer insight into something that interests you. Romance is in the stars. *****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Put everything into getting what you want. Giving your best will impress someone who can help you reach your goal. Hard work and a relentless attitude will pay off and position you for advancement. Don't take unnecessary risks. **
Birthday Baby: You are powerful, demonstrative and aggressive. You are distinctive and playful.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☽: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☹: Aim high; start new projects. ☹☹☹: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

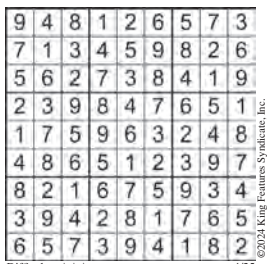
Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty: ★★★★★

4/26

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them. Circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

JEFF KOONS (ARTIST)

Solution: 12 letters



©2014 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 4/26
Artemis, Artist, ARTPOP, Auction, Balloon Dog, Banality, Blake, Conclusion, Curating, Ed Paschke, Eric, Gloria, Gold, Henry, Hulk, Elvis, Iona, Justine, Landing, Ludwig, Lunar, Luxury, Lynn, Masters, Mirror, Moon Phases, New York, Odysseus, Play-Doh, Rabbit, Scarlet, Sculptures, Sean, Shannon, Three Ball, Wine, Works
Yesterday's Answer: Alcoholic
The NEW TELEVISION VINTAGE COLLECTION EDITION #1 can be purchased on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367.)

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Heat hit franchise playoff-record 23 3s to beat Boston and even series 1-1



BOSTON (AP)—The Miami Heat beat Boston with an unprecedented barrage of 3-pointers on Wednesday night to erase the home-court advantage the Celtics worked all season to establish.

Tyler Herro had 24 points and 14 assists, hitting six of Miami's 23 3-pointers—the most in a playoff game in franchise history—to lead the Heat to a 111-101 victory over top-seeded Boston and tie the first-round playoff series at one game apiece.

"It was a very good response," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "And then we also made some shots. It always looks better when you make shots."

Bam Adebayo had 21 points and 10 rebounds, and new Celtics nemesis Caleb Martin also had 21 points for the Heat, who shot 53.5% (23 of 43) from beyond the arc to bounce back after a Game 1 blowout. That broke Miami's playoff record of 20 3-pointers, set against the Bucks in the 2021 first round.

"They obviously made a conscious effort to have free reign to shoot more," Celtics



Miami Heat guard Tyler Herro (14) celebrates with Caleb Martin late in the second half Game 2 of the team's NBA basketball first-round playoff series against the Boston Celtics, Wednesday, April 24, 2024, in Boston.

coach Joe Mazzulla said.

And shoot and shoot and shoot.

Playing their third straight game without playoff stalwart Jimmy Butler, who was injured in the opening play-in

game, Miami shot better than 50% from 3-point range in each of the first three quarters (and a still productive 4 of 10 in the fourth).

After Boston cut an 11-point lead to six, 102-96, with 3:16 to play, Martin hit a 3 and Boston never got as close as two possessions again.

"You have to take 'em, based on how they were playing us the first two games," said Spoelstra, who saw Boston hit 22 3-pointers to Miami's 12 in the opener. "I did not want to get annihilated in that department like we did the game before."

Jaylen Brown scored 33 points for Boston. Jayson Tatum scored 28, showing no ill-effects of Martin's hard foul

that sent him crashing to the floor with under a minute to play in Boston's 114-94 victory on Sunday.

Tatum got up off the parquet floor.

But so did Miami.

"It seemed we couldn't get them to miss," Brown said. "They had a record-breaking night. ... They made a lot of shots that usually we're comfortable with."

The series moves to Miami for Games 3 and 4 on Saturday and Monday.

"It's always a good thing if you can get one on the road," Martin said. "You always look to try to steal one. We were able to do that."

The Celtics won 64 games in the regular season to claim

home-court advantage through the NBA Finals, but they didn't make very good use of it on Wednesday despite a crowd that was still fired up over seeing their star land hard in the series opener.

Tatum had his first career playoff triple-double on Sunday, scoring 23 points with 10 rebounds and 10 assists in game in which Boston led by as many as 34 points in the fourth quarter. But the big question was how he would bounce back after getting undercut by Martin while going after a rebound.

Tatum started Game 2 and had 14 points in the first quarter. And Martin was heartily booed every time he touched the ball.

It only seemed to energize him and the Heat, who needed to win a play-in game to earn the right to face the Celtics.

"He's a competitor. He's the ultimate X factor," Spoelstra said. "He's the X factor of X factors."

Miami led by five, 55-50, with two minutes left in the first half before Brown hit three straight 3-pointers to open a four-point lead. Brown missed a 3 the next time down, but his layup in the final seconds made it 61-58 at the half.

Miami went on a 10-0 run to take an 82-70 lead with under four minutes to play in the third before the Celtics cut it to six.

"We knew it wasn't going to be easy," Tatum said. "There's a lot of history between these two franchises, especially recently. ... It's never going to go exactly as people expect it to go and that's the beauty of it."

THUNDER 124, PELICANS 92

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 33 points and Oklahoma City beat New Orleans to take a 2-0 lead in their first-round Western Conference playoff series.

Chet Holmgren had 26 points and seven rebounds and Jalen Williams added 21 points for the top-seeded Thunder, who shot 59% from the field and made 14 of 29 3-pointers.

Jonas Valanciunas scored 19 points and Herb Jones and Brandon Ingram added 18 each for the Pelicans.

New Orleans continued to struggle on offense without top scorer Zion Williamson, who remained out with a strained left hamstring.

NBA says Maxey fouled—twice—before turnover that led to Knicks' go-ahead shot

NEW YORK (AP)—Philadelphia's Tyrese Maxey was fouled twice before his turnover that led to the go-ahead 3-pointer by Donte DiVincenzo in the New York Knicks' victory over the 76ers in Game 2, the NBA determined Tuesday.

In its Last 2 Minutes report, the league also said 76ers coach Nick Nurse twice attempted to call timeouts that were "neither recognized nor granted by the officials" during the possession.

The furious 76ers planned to file a grievance regarding the officiating after falling into a 2-0 hole in the series following the Knicks' 104-101 victory on Monday night. But on Tuesday—speaking on TNT after being revealed as the league's Most Improved Player this season—Maxey offered perspective.

"It is what it is. It happened. We've got to let it go," Maxey said. "We can't dwell on it now. If we dwell on it, then in a couple days we'll be down 0-3. We don't want to be down 0-3. We know that we can still win this series. We're going to go out there and prove that to everybody, not just ourselves. It starts today, letting that go. And then tomorrow at practice, and when the ball goes up on Thursday be the tougher team—not just physically, but mentally as well."

The 76ers led by five points before Jalen Brunson's 3-point-

er with 27 seconds remaining. The 76ers attempted to inbound the ball to Maxey, who was swarmed by both Brunson and Josh Hart. Maxey fell to the court and Hart grabbed the ball.

But the NBA said Brunson first grabbed Maxey's jersey, preventing the All-Star guard from catching the pass cleanly. The league ruled that Hart then made lower body contact that caused Maxey to fall.

Both plays were indicated as incorrect non-calls.

The league determined that Hart took the ball away from Maxey with a clean steal.

Nurse attempted to call timeout before the ball was passed in, then again after Maxey had fallen, which may have been too late.

"The timeout request is simultaneous to Hart making contact with the ball and (Philadelphia) not having possession," the report said.

Sixers center Joel Embiid used an expletive after the game in saying the officiating had been unacceptable for missing the attempted timeout and the foul.

"I mean, we still had chances to win the game," Maxey said Tuesday night. "I got my layup blocked and we missed a 3 at the end to tie. We can't dwell on that. We can't leave the games in other people's hands. We've got to go out there and take it."

Minnesota's Naz Reid wins NBA's Sixth Man of the Year award

NEW YORK (AP)—Naz Reid was having a productive season as a reserve when the Minnesota Timberwolves needed him in the starting lineup while playing without All-Star Karl-Anthony Towns.

Reid was excellent in that role, too, helping the Timberwolves to the second-best season in franchise history.

Reid was rewarded with the NBA's Sixth Man of the Year on Wednesday, edging Sacramento's Malik Monk in a close vote to become the third undrafted player to win the award for the league's best reserve.

Reid averaged career highs of 13.5 points and 5.2 rebounds in 81 games. The forward-center came off the bench 67 times, getting a feel for the game in the early minutes before getting his chance to impact it.

"I kind of joke around with my teammates a little bit, but it's kind of a saying where I feel like

we have to keep the momentum going, anyway," Reid said in an interview on TNT after the award was announced. "Either we got to have the mentality to come back in the game, or to push the lead forward."

The 6-foot-9 Reid helped the Timberwolves do that plenty of times en route to a 56-26 record to earn the No. 3 seed in the Western Conference. They have a 2-0 lead over the Phoenix Suns in their first-round series.

Towns was hurt in March and missed the next 18 games. Yet the Wolves hardly slowed down, going 10-3 from March 16 to April 10 while Reid started 12 of the 13 games. He averaged 17.1 points on 45.4% shooting during that span.

Reid got 45 first-place votes to 43 for Monk from a panel of 99 reporters and broadcasters who cover the league. Both players had 39 second-place votes and 10 third-place votes,

giving Reid a total of 352 points to Monk's 342.

Milwaukee's Bobby Portis Jr. finished third. Norman Powell of the Clippers was fourth and Atlanta's Bogdan Bogdanovic rounded out the top five.

Reid was undrafted out of LSU in 2019, originally joining the Timberwolves with a two-way contract that summer. The fan favorite played his way into a multiyear contract extension last summer, then rewarded the Wolves this season with 843 points off the bench, second-most in franchise history.

He twice reached 30 points and had 20 or more 14 times, both career bests, and said the award was special for the fans who have supported him since the beginning of his career.

"They've seen me work from Day 1. Since the moment I got here I changed my body, I changed my mentality, I changed the direction I wanted

to go in life," Reid said. "I think they kind of deserve that and I think just being with me, that's super special."

Reid joined John Starks (1996-97) and Darrell Armstrong (1999) as undrafted players to win the Sixth Man award, named for Celtics Hall of Famer John Havlicek.

The Clutch Player will be awarded on Thursday (Golden State's Stephen Curry, Chicago's DeMar DeRozan or Gilgeous-Alexander); and Coach of the Year on Sunday (Oklahoma City's Mark Daigneault, Minnesota's Chris Finch or Orlando's Jamahl Mosley).

All those announcements will be made on TNT's pre-game shows.

Philadelphia's Tyrese Maxey won the Most Improved Player award Tuesday. The NBA hasn't yet released the schedule for the other awards.

Nootbaar drives in two in a victory over Diamondbacks



ST. LOUIS (AP)—Lars Nootbaar

drove in two runs and Kyle Gibson pitched six effective innings, lifting the St. Louis Cardinals to a 5-1 victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks in the finale of three-game series on Wednesday.

It was the first win in a series finale this season for the Cardinals.

In his 299th start, Gibson (2-2) allowed one run and five hits. Gibson struck out six and walked two.

Three relievers finished up for St. Louis.

Former Cardinal Jordan Montgomery (1-1) went seven innings in his second start for Arizona since signing a one-year, \$25 million deal as this season began. He allowed three runs, two earned, and six hits and struck out four and walked one.

METS 8, GIANTS 2

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Francisco Lindor hit a pair of two-run homers and the New York Mets avoided a three-game series sweep with a win over San Francisco.

Lindor went 4 for 5 with four RBIs and recorded the 16th multi-homer game of his career.

Tyrone Taylor homered and added a two-run double, and Jeff McNeil had an RBI single as New York snapped a three-game skid.

Tyler Fitzgerald homered for San Francisco, which was seeking its first three-game winning streak of the season.

Mets starter Sean Manaea struggled with his command, but battled through 4 2/3 scoreless innings with six strikeouts and four walks. The 32-year-old left-hander allowed four hits, all singles.

ORIOLES 6, ANGELS 5

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Gunnar Henderson continued his hot streak at the plate with three hits and three RBIs and Baltimore defeated the Los Angeles Angels 6-5 despite Mike Trout becoming the first player in the majors to reach 10 home runs this season.

Batting leadoff for the second straight day, Trout got the Angels on the board with a solo shot down the left-field line off Dean Kremer (1-2) in the sixth. It's the third time in the past seven seasons Trout has been the first in the majors to reach double digits in homers.

That began Los Angeles' rally from being down 6-0 to having the tying run on first with two outs in the ninth.

With the Angels trailing 6-4, Ehire Adrianza led off the ninth with an infield single off Orioles closer Craig Kimbrell and advanced to third on second baseman Jorge Mateo's throwing er-



St. Louis Cardinals' Lars Nootbaar gestures toward the dugout after hitting a two-RBI double during the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Arizona Diamondbacks Wednesday, April 24, 2024, in St. Louis.

ror. Logan O'Hoppe's grounder drove him in to get the Angels within a run.

RED SOX 8, GUARDIANS 0

CLEVELAND (AP)—Connor Wong homered twice and Rafael Devers connected for a homer in his return to Boston's lineup, sending the banged-up Red Sox to an 8-0 win over the Cleveland Guardians on Wednesday night.

Wong hit leadoff homers in the second and sixth innings off Carlos Carrasco (1-2). He added an RBI single in the ninth and had four hits.

Devers, who missed the previous five games with a bone bruise in his knee, homered in the fifth as the Red Sox piled up 16 hits and cooled off baseball's hottest team with a four-hit shutout.

BREWERS 3, PIRATES 2

PITTSBURGH (AP)—William Contreras had three hits and Milwaukee used one big inning to edge the Pittsburgh.

The Brewers took advantage of a sloppy second inning by the Pirates to turn an error, two walks and two hit batters and an RBI single by Contreras into three runs.

Sal Frelick had two hits for Milwaukee, which snapped a two-game skid. Bryan Hudson (2-1) worked 1 2/3 innings of scoreless relief. Joel Payamps overcame a pair of errors in the ninth for his third save.

Bryan Reynolds hit a two-run homer for Pittsburgh, but the Pirates managed just four hits against five relievers in a bullpen game that favored the Brewers.

DODGERS 11, NATIONALS 2

WASHINGTON (AP)—Shohei Ohtani had three doubles to improve his major league-leading batting average to .371, rookie Landon Knack

got his first victory and the Los Angeles Dodgers routed Washington.

The Dodgers had a season-high 20 hits en route to their third straight victory, with Mookie Betts and Will Smith each having four hits and Andy Pages homering.

Nick Senzel homered for Washington. The Nationals didn't have a baserunner after the second inning.

Ohtani went 3 for 6, hitting RBI doubles in the eighth and ninth innings. He leads the majors in slugging percentage (.695), OPS (1.128), extra-base hits (21) and doubles (14).

RAYS 7, TIGERS 5

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Curtis Mead hit his first home run of the season and Tampa Bay beat Detroit to avoid a three-game sweep.

Ben Rortvedt collected his second RBI of the game with a single and scored on Mead's two-run drive off Will Vest (1-1) that put the Rays ahead 7-5 in the sixth inning. It was Mead's first homer since Sept. 22.

Tampa Bay had lost three in row and five of seven.

YANKEES 7, ATHLETICS 3

NEW YORK (AP)—Aaron Judge hit a two-run homer in the first inning after Oakland starting pitcher Joe Boyle was called for a balk on the previous pitch and the New York Yankees beat the Athletics.

Anthony Rizzo and Juan Soto also homered as the Yankees won for the fifth time in seven games and improved to 10-1 in their last 11 in the Bronx against Oakland.

Judge appeared to take a called third strike and was headed back to the dugout, but Boyle (1-4) was charged with a balk. Judge then hit an outside fastball to the short porch in right field for his 261st homer, passing former captain Derek Jeter for ninth on the Yankees'

all-time list.

REDS 7, PHILLIES 4

CINCINNATI (AP)—Santiago Espinal had three RBIs, reliever Fernando Cruz pitched out a jam in the seventh inning and Cincinnati held on for a win over Philadelphia.

Will Benson had a solo homer in the third inning. Espinal singled home two as part of a four-run sixth and drove in another with a sacrifice fly in the seventh.

Reds starter Nick Lodolo went five innings, allowing three runs and six hits while striking out four and walking three.

For the second straight night, Cruz came in with one out and stranded Phillies runners on second and third.

Elly De La Cruz had three hits and three stolen bases. In the eighth, he singled, stole second and third and scored on a fly ball by Spencer Steer.

The loss wasted another excellent outing by Philadelphia starter Spencer Turnbull, who allowed a run and three hits through five innings.

BRAVES 4, MARLINS 3, 10 INNINGS

ATLANTA (AP)—Michael Harris II doubled home Ronald Acuña Jr. in the 10th inning and Atlanta edged Miami after blowing a two-run lead in the ninth to complete a three-game sweep.

A.J. Minter (4-1) struck out Jazz Chisolm Jr. with the bases loaded and two outs in the top of the 10th to earn the win for the Braves, who have won nine of their last 10.

The Marlins had tied it in the ninth with two runs off Braves closer Raisel Iglesias, who blew his first save in eight chances this season.

Luis Arraez, Bryan De La Cruz and Jazz Chisolm Jr. all singled to load the bases. Braves first baseman Matt Olson committed a fielding error on Josh

Bell's grounder that allowed two runs to score and tied the game at 3. Iglesias retired the next three batters to get out of the ninth.

The Braves threatened in the ninth, but Acuña grounded into a double play with two men on to end the inning.

Tanner Scott (0-4) took the loss for the Marlins, who have been swept three times this season.

TWINS 6, WHITE SOX 3

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Willi Castro hit a 3-run home run on his 27th birthday and Joe Ryan pitched six innings for his first win of the year as Minnesota beat the Chicago White Sox.

Castro's homer capped a four-run second inning against Chicago left-hander Garrett Crochet. It was his second career home run on his birthday and it drove in Austin Martin and Christian Vázquez.

Ryan (1-1) had a pair of three-strikeout innings, but also allowed solo homers in the third to Kevin Pillar and Korey Lee. The Twins righty struck out seven and gave up three runs to win for the first time in five starts.

Minnesota, which had a season-high 13 hits, has won the first three games of the four-game series against the White Sox, who hold the worst record in the majors at 3-21.

CUBS 4, ASTROS 3

CHICAGO (AP)—Dansby Swanson hit a three-run homer during Chicago's four-run first inning and the short-handed Cubs beat Houston.

Playing without Cody Bellinger, Chicago used Swanson's big swing and a solid start by Jameson Taillon to earn its second straight win. It will try to sweep the three-game set against the struggling Astros on Thursday.

Taillon (2-0) allowed two runs, one earned, and seven hits in 5 2/3 innings. The

right-hander struck out four and walked two in his second start since he began the season on the injured list with a back strain.

Houston lost for the seventh time in eight games. It has scored a total of 21 runs during the slide.

ROYALS 3, BLUE JAYS 2

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Alec Marsh and four relievers combined for a six-hitter as Kansas City beat Toronto.

Maikel Garcia and Salvador Perez each had two hits and an RBI for Kansas City, which bounced back from a loss in the series opener on Monday to win two straight.

John Schreiber (2-0) picked up the win in relief. James McArthur earned his sixth save.

Yariel Rodríguez (0-1) gave up three runs on six hits in four innings. He struck out two and walked two.

PADRES 5, ROCKIES 2

DENVER (AP)—Xander Bogaerts had a season-high three hits, Matt Waldron gave up one run in six innings and San Diego beat Colorado.

Ha-Seong Kim and Jackson Merrill had two RBIs to help the Padres beat the Rockies for the 11th time in their past 14 meetings. Kim had two hits, including a bloop double to right field that drove in the game's first two runs and spurred a four-run first inning.

Waldron (1-2) rebounded from his worst outing of the season, a loss against Toronto in which he allowed five runs and seven hits in 4 2/3 innings. With four runs on the board before he took the mound for the first time, Waldron got some much-needed run support after San Diego scored just seven runs in his previous four starts.

Robert Suarez picked up his ninth save of the season, retiring the Rockies in order on seven pitches.

RANGERS 5, MARINERS 1

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Adolis García and Evan Carter hit back-to-back home runs in the fourth inning and Texas beat Seattle.

García's team-high seventh homer barely cleared the wall in straight-away center field and tipped off the glove of Julio Rodríguez. García stood near first base apparently thinking Rodríguez made the catch until he saw the center fielder walk toward the infield, turn and look over the fence.

Carter hit a triple to drive home García in the seventh in an inning kept alive on an obstruction call at first base against Mariners reliever Austin Voth when Nathaniel Lowe appeared to hit into a 3-6-3 double play.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER



MP United Football Club's U12 and U14

teams racked up wins that landed them on top of their divisions in the TakeCare Youth Soccer League Spring 2024 at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Saturday.

The U12 team scorched Latte FC, 8-0, which was a result of their aggressiveness and accuracy.

The ball was rolling in their favor from the opening whistle and it wasn't too long before Kanoa Owens broke the ice seven minutes in. A minute later, Quido Jambor made it 2-nil. Latte didn't even have time to recover as in the next minute, a goal was made by Beau Bauer, for a 3-0 game.

MP United owned the first half and continued their reign of terror on Latte's goalie as Damien Camacho and Xavier Camacho went back-to-back for a 5-0 lead by the 18th minute.

Jambor went on to complete the hat-trick from successive

MP United leads U12, U14 boys division



NMIFA

MP United's Landon Springer, right, in action against Latte FC during their U14 boys match in the 2024 Take Care Youth Soccer League Spring 2024 at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Saturday.

goals in the 20th and 21st, for a 7-0 game. Latte couldn't cool down MP United's fire as Bauer scored their 8th goal in the 31st minute.

In the U14 game against Latte as well, MP United took a page out of their younger team's book and blanked them, 4-0.

Kanoa Owens ripped one

early on for a 1-0 lead just three minutes in. Latte did well to defend their goal until the 26th minute when Xavier Camacho found an opening and made it 2-0.

The first half went on quietly as both teams tried to get the better of the other, but they couldn't deliver.

The second half came and with a one kick in the 44th minute, Landon Springer put them up, 3-0. Then, five minutes later, Kimason Cabrera whipped one by and solidified a 4-0 lead.

Latte conceded as time ran out and they couldn't put one on the board.



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

TakeCare Youth League Standings

BOYS U12 DIVISION

	G	W	T	L
MP United FC	9	8	1	0
Kanoa FC 1	9	8	0	1
Kanoa FC-2	9	5	0	4
Matansa FC	9	3	1	5
Paire FC 9	2	0	7	
Shirley's FC	9	0	0	9

BOYS U14 DIVISION

	G	W	T	L
MP United FC	6	5	1	0
Kanoa FC-1	6	4	1	1
Latte FC 6	4	0	2	
Matansa FC	6	4	0	2
Kanoa FC-2	6	1	1	4
Shirley's FC	6	1	0	5
Paire FC 6	0	1	5	

SBL Standings

	W	L
Falcons	1	0
Braves	1	0
Sandlot	1	0
Padrea	1	0
Bandits	3	4
D-9er's	1	0
Cardinals	0	1

7 off to Guam for jiu-jitsu tourney

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR



Trench Tech Purebred Gym will be sending seven of

its young'uns to the Pâtgon (Kids) Jiu-Jitsu Tournament in Guam this weekend.

Sensei Justis "Cuki" Alvarez said the seven making the journey to the southern end of the Marianas chain are white belts Deighton Muña, Uriah "Wolfie" Sablan, Aiyan Magofna Rios, and Tate Manglona and grey belts Reide Travilla, Iris Quitugua, and Trey Manglona.

Tate Manglona will be making his second Pâtgon (Kids) Jiu-Jitsu tourney and will compete in the gi/no-gi divisions.

"I will give it my all! It's

an amazing feeling to represent the CNMI. My goal is to always win a medal for my family and team, but like they say, its either you win or you learn. It's an honor to compete against some of the greatest kids in the Marianas," said the 11-year-old.

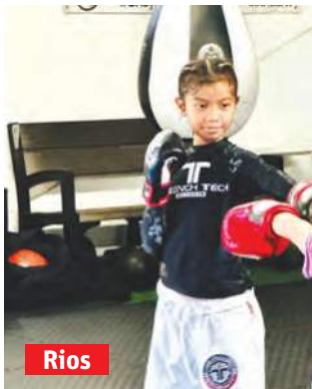
His brother Trey Manglona, meanwhile, will be making his third go-around and he will see action in the teens gi/no-gi divisions

"It's always exciting to compete against some of the most skilled Marianas warriors. I look forward to representing the CNMI, Trench Tech Purebred Gyn, and my family. No matter the results, I will come back better."

Also making her third stint in the tourney is 8-year-old Quitugua and she said her goal in the Pâtgon Jiu-Jitsu tourney



Quitugua



Rios



Sablan

"is to do my best and be confident and win!"

Ten-year-old Travilla is



Travilla

the veteran of the group as it's her fourth time in the tourney. She's also excited to

compete in Guam.

"I am pumped to be competing again at the Pâtgon Jiu-Jitsu tournament alongside my Trench Tech Purebred team. No matter the outcome of the tournament, it will be a learning experience and I am excited to do my best, have fun, and represent the CNMI."

Six-year-old Muña, meanwhile, will be making his debut in the Pâtgon (Kids) Jiu-Jitsu tourney this weekend.

"I feel like I am happy to try it. I think my goal is to just do my best and do it again."

Like Muña, the tourney will also be 6-year-old Sablan's first time competing and he will do so in the peewee division.

Another first-timer is Rios who will compete in the no-gi 60 lbs and gi 67 lbs. "I feel extremely excited, happy, and grateful for the opportunity to compete. I also feel confident I would do great!"

TOP

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took on Vivian Chung and won, 7-5, 6-2. This Saturday, it's Lang vs. Pascual, and Park vs. Chung. On Sunday, it's Pascual vs. Chung, and Lang vs. Park.

In the boys 12 semis this Saturday, No. 1 Cody Park will take on Seung Woo Lee; Noah Hawley will face Cooper Koning-Fong; No. 3 Daniel Kang will go up against No. 2 Michael Jeon; No. 4 Matt Zhu will await the winner; and this Sunday, Kijoon Park awaits the winner as well, and Jackson Koning-Fong will challenge Jason Choi.

Only three girls are in the girls 12 division, with Scarlett Loken defeating Eva Shin last Sunday. This Saturday, Selina Chi will go against Eva Shin, and Chi will face Loken this Sunday.

The girls 14, 18, and boys 12 and 14, and co-ed U10 doubles divisions will also continue with their semis/finals this weekend. In the girls 14, Chi and Lang

will take on Stella and Vivian this Saturday, and Amy and Pascual will face Stella and Vivian. In the boys 12, Kang and Seung Woo will take on Jeon and Zhu this Saturday, while Cody and Kijoon and Cooper and Jackson will await the winners on Sunday.

As for the girls 18, Irin and Serin will face Lina Tsukagoshi and Wang and Chae and Anna will go up against Tsukagoshi and Wang. Then on Sunday, Irin and Serin will challenge Chae and Anna. In the boys 18, Wessel and Yu will face David and Tang this Saturday, and Wessel and Yu, will go up against Henry and Si Woo.

In the U10 co-ed division this Saturday, it's Fiona Yu vs. Evan Zhang, and Lynore He vs. Harper Loken. Then on Sunday, He will take on Fiona.

The 2024 Crowne Plaza CNMI Junior Championship is organized by the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association.

TAIYO

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saw my team's happy faces, it also made me happy!"

He said he just tried to keep a long and steady stroke for the first 50m, attack and go fast in the next 50m because it's his worst. For the third stroke, he just tried to keep his speed up and the last one, he gave everything he had left.

"I had a feeling I would do well in this event, but I didn't think of placing!" he exclaimed on winning bronze.

As for Miller, who broke several PBs throughout the championships, he said, "It felt astounding to break my PBs. I fancy this trip since the food

was scrumptious and I felt I was able to accomplish my goals."

Sikkel, for her part, said, "I am very thankful to have been able to swim pb's through this competition. I am grateful for my coaches and team."

And for Tenorio, she said, "It felt really good and relieving to break my PB because that was something I was working towards. The competition was fun, and I made friends with many people."

Last Sunday and Monday, Moshe Sikkel and Piper Raho broke the CNMI 13-14 age group records.

Moshe set the new time in the 100m backstroke with a time of 1:07.40 and recorded a new time in the 50m at 30.31 sec-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMI swimmers pose for a group photo on the opening day of the Oceania Swimming Championships 2024 held at the Gold Coast Aquatic Centre in Southport, Queensland, Australia last Sunday.

onds. Raho restarted the 50m backstroke record with her time of 34.69 seconds.

With the seven swimmers were coaches Richard Sikkel and Christian Villacrusis.

JOSE

From page 20

seventh and sealed their first win, 8-0, after the Bears went scoreless throughout.

Last Monday, the Padres blew out the Blue Jays, 16-1, in a run-mercy ruled game. Then last Tuesday, D-9ers handed the Natives their second loss in an 8-4 final.



Heat hit franchise playoff-record 23 3s to beat Boston and even series 1-1. PAGE 17

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MP United leads U12, U14 boys division PAGE 19



20 FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2024

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Taiyo swims to bronze in 200m individual medley

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Taiyo Akimaru was truly one with the water as he swam to a podium finish with a bronze in the 200m individual medley event on the last day of the Oceania Swimming Championships 2024 held at the Gold Coast Aquatic Centre in Southport, Queensland, Australia last Wednesday.

He capped the CNMI team's stint Down Under and brought home the team's only hardware as he finished with a time of 2:18.17 for the bronze medal in the individual medley event. The IM consists of four strokes—butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke, and freestyle.

Gold went to powerhouse Australia's Grayson Doig who clocked in at 2:06.60, and silver

was Micronesian neighbor Guam's Israel Poppe at 2:14.01.

Prior to his last event of the Championships that night, he broke the CNMI 50m breaststroke 17-18 age group record with a finals time and PB of 31.51 seconds. He also set a new PB in the 50m freestyle with a time of 25.41 seconds and reached the finals.

Fellow NMI swimmers also



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMI's Taiyo Akimaru, right, poses with his bronze medal along with gold medalist Grayson Doig and silver medalist Israel Poppe during the 200m individual medley awards ceremony of the Oceania Swimming Championships 2024 held at the Gold Coast Aquatic Centre in Southport, Queensland, Australia last Wednesday.

Jose Lizama shuts-out Bears, 8-0

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Bandits pitcher Jose Lizama put up a dominant performance on the mound and shut out the Bears to win, 8-0 in the 2024 Saipan Baseball League last Tuesday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

The Bandits' bats assisted their pitcher who was cooking up something special as they scored two in the first inning. Although they couldn't round the bases in the second, Jon Wilson, Franko Nakamura, and Tindin Leon Guerrero made it home safely to bring them up, 5-0.

The Bears tried to get something going as Anthony Dizon got a hit into the cen-

terfield. However, he was gunned down by a speedy Bandits center fielder at third base after he tried to extend his double into a triple. That was about the only scare that Lizama had from the Bears as he got out of the inning without giving up any runs.

In the fourth and fifth, Bears pitcher Kaipio Dikito managed to hold down the Bandits and keep them at five runs. But the Bears' offense couldn't get going with Lizama dominating the strike zone and inducing out after out.

The Bandits went on to score two more in the sixth after Niko Martin and Leon Guerrero got on base. Then Ton Leon Guerrero submitted their eighth run in the

See JOSE on Page 19



LEIGH GASES

Bandits pitcher Jose Lizama delivers a pitch during their shut-out win against the Bears in the 2024 Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field last Tuesday.

Top junior netters smash through Crowne Plaza tourney

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER



Top junior netters advanced to the semis of the 2024 Crowne Plaza CNMI Junior Championship after their matches last weekend at the American Memorial Park and Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan tennis courts.

No. 1 David Kwon will take on Nason Wessel and Si Woo Lee and No. 2 June Yu will duke it out in the boys 18 division for the finals spot this Sunday.

Kiwoon Lee and Kwon received a bye and didn't challenge anyone, while Wessel



LEIGH GASES

File photo shows Anne Lee in action during the previous North Pacific Regional Championships at the American Memorial Park tennis courts earlier this month.

defeated Simon Tang in the quarterfinals, 6-0, 6-1. Lee bested Henry Choi, 6-4, 7-6(4), and Yu beat Kiwon Lee, 6-0, 6-1.

Then, Savita Sikkell recorded a 31.30 seconds PB in the 50m freestyle; Nagi Tenorio set a new PB in the 50m freestyle with a time of 36.86 seconds; and Michael Miller reset his PB

in the 200m IM with a 2:34.80. For 18-year-old Akimaru's bronze medal swim, he said, "During the swim, I was thinking how fast I will need to go every stroke and just try-

ing to beat people next to me. At first, I was too tired to even celebrate and was exhausted from my swim but after that I felt super hyped and when I

See TAIYO on Page 19

up against Hoo Wang.

Serin had a bye, while Irin went up against Stella Choi and won, 6-1, 6-2; Wang upset No. 3 Hannah Chae, 6-2, 6-3; and Lee overwhelmed Anna Kwon, 6-3, 6-0.

Only three netters are in the boys 14, with only one match last Saturday. Ian Chae took down Jebro Leon, 5-1. The match between Matthew Hwang and Leon will take place this Saturday, and Chae will take on Hwang this Sunday.

In the girls 14, there are only four participants. Last Saturday, Jenna Pascual defeated Amy Park in three tough sets, 6-4, 5-7, 10-7. Then, Emma Lang See TOP on Page 19